

Safety tips *for* Open House

As we prepare for the upcoming Open House weekend – it's important to remember safety as a top priority. This year, we expect more than 100,000 visitors to JSC, many of whom will be children and elderly and present unique safety considerations.

Open House volunteers will attend a training session, which includes safety, but it's important for all of us to keep these issues in mind for our upcoming visitors.

Mary Lee Meider of the Occupational Safety and Quality Assurance Branch offers these reminders:

Take extra care when driving and crossing streets on site during Open House. Visitors may not be aware of our regulations such as crossing streets at crosswalks or stopping cars for pedestrians at crosswalks.

A nurse-staffed first aid station will be available in the Bldg. 8 clinic lobby during Open House. The clinic's ambulance also will be available.

- The emergency number is x33333. It will be on the back of volunteers' badges.
- Drink plenty of fluids. Houston's climate and extended periods outdoors can make people prone to dehydration. JSC will have more free water stations located around site near information booths this year, as will Ballunar Lifftoff.
- Be prepared to help visitors evacuate during a fire alarm by directing them to stairs on upper floors and building exits.
- Check your tour area throughout the day for potential hazards – including tripping hazards or slipping hazards, sharp objects/edges along the tour route, and shock hazards (exposed wires).

As you check for hazards, keep in mind a lot of children will be among our guests.

Safety professionals will be walking around and available all day to help with any issues that may arise. ■

Ballunar Lifftoff Festival *promises entertainment, education*

One hundred brilliantly colored hot-air balloons will create a kaleidoscope in the sky above JSC August 27, 28 and 29 as part of the annual Ballunar Lifftoff Festival. A perennial favorite, the ballooning extravaganza will showcase skydiving acrobatics, ballooning contests and evening balloon glows.

"This has really become an international ballooning event," said Claudette Alderman of the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce, a co-host of the Festival. "We'll have balloons coming from all over the world including Europe."

The Festival will begin Friday at 6 p.m. with opening ceremonies and a Grand Parade of Balloon Pilots at JSC. The evening will be capped by a balloon glow at 7:30 p.m. Weekend activities will start with competitive flair as balloonists and skydivers participate in various competitions including a "Key Grab" contest

Saturday at 7 a.m. In this event balloonists endeavor to grapple a ring from the top of a 20-foot pole for a "high dollar prize."

"This is the first year Ballunar Lifftoff Festival has been sanctioned by the Balloon Federation of America as the Texas Championship event," said Alderman. "So it is now the qualifying event for national competitions such as Albuquerque."

Balloon launches take place in the early morning hours shortly after dawn or just before dusk. Onlookers can watch a mass ascension of the balloons at 6 p.m. Saturday.

Also taking to the skies will be daring skydivers jumping from more than 13,000 feet high, performing aerial acrobatics on their way down to a landing field.

On the ground attractions include musical entertainment, an arts and craft fair, food booths, and business exhibits. Event hours are 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. The schedule is subject to change.

Admission is \$3. Children under 12 are admitted free.

Ballunar Lifftoff Festival Inc., a nonprofit educational foundation, sponsors the event and is dedicated to helping the public learn about aviation and space exploration. It also funds educational activities to help young people learn about space, mathematics and science. ■

Ask not how your center can serve you...

Volunteers are still needed for Open House on Saturday, August 28. JSC will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., but can offer their services in two-hour increments – two hours, four hours, six hours...or all day. Additional Spanish-speaking volunteers are especially needed.

More than 100,000 people attended the 1998 Open House, and at least as many are expected this year. This event is important to the center. It is an opportunity for us to show the public what we do, how their tax dollars are spent and what they're getting in return.

Volunteers will serve at the information booths and water stations situated throughout the center. They'll have a chance to interact positively with visitors, to help show them how important the center is to the community and the nation.

Volunteers should attend one of seven training sessions to receive vital information needed for Open House '99. These sessions will be held in the Bldg. 30 auditorium.

Please attend one of the following sessions:

- 10 a.m. Friday, August 13
- 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday, August 16
- 2 p.m. Tuesday, August 17
- 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 18
- 2 p.m. Thursday, August 19

It is not too late for you to make a difference and help the community by signing up as a volunteer for Open House '99!

The easiest way to sign up is by going to the volunteer home page. This can be accessed at:
<http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/openhouse/Databases/>

Open House

Key Facts:

9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Saturday, August 28, 1999

Free to the public

Information Line: 281-244-5312

Web site: <http://openhouse.jsc.nasa.gov>



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– Claudette Alderman